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QUADRENNIAL REPORTS ON THE ACTIVITIES OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, CATEGORIES I AND II

Quadrennial reports, 1988-1991

Reports submitted through the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968

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CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN CHURCHES

(Category II)

The Conference of European Churches (CEC) is the regional ecumenical organization which links in fellowship the Orthodox, Anglican, Old Catholic, Reformed, Lutheran and other Protestant churches of Europe. It is one of eight regional ecumenical organizations which together cover practically the whole world.

CEC is an autonomous body though cooperating closely with the World Council of Churches (WCC).

All the CEC member churches are committed to live and witness together in a spirit of ecumenism, sharing, understanding and mutual respect - this, in spite of the historic divides, the many languages and the geographical and political barriers which have existed, and still exist in new forms, in Europe.

Since its beginning CEC has regarded the building of bridges between Eastern and Western Europe as one of its principal tasks. This bridge-building has also been between minority and majority churches and between Christians of different confessional traditions. CEC meetings are important points of encounter where theological and social reflection is encouraged. The meetings are a spur to constructive activity, especially in the field of peace and justice.

The supreme governing body of the CEC is the Assembly. The 35-member Central Committee oversees the implementation of Assembly decisions and meets once a year, jointly with the Executive Committee.

The Secretariat, based in Geneva, ensures the continuity of CEC activities. It consists of 16 staff members, including the General Secretary and Secretaries for finance; peace, justice and human rights; interchurch service; refugees and asylum seekers; studies and information/communication.

CEC is financed by contributions from its member churches. It is a non-governmental organization with consultative status (category II) with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and with the Council of Europe.

CEC, in cooperation with the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches, monitors and participates in the work of the United Nations in New York and Geneva. The work of the United Nations in Vienna is followed by a representative of the Methodist Church in Austria, a CEC member church.

Following the 1986 Assembly, a secretariat for peace, justice and human rights was opened in the Geneva office, which is responsible for relationships with the United Nations, particularly the human rights bodies, and disarmament issues.

The period 1988-1989 was mainly dedicated to the preparation, realization and immediate follow-up of the European Ecumenical Assembly "Peace with Justice", sponsored jointly by CEC and CCEE (Council of European (Roman

Catholic) Bishops' Conferences), which was an historic event. It was held in Basel (Switzerland) from 15 to 21 May 1989. For the first time since the Reformation, all major Christian denominations met together in Europe. More importantly the assembled representatives analysed the major threats to today's humanity in justice, peace and environmental issues. The last part of the document from the Assembly recognizes the responsibilities of the churches in a global perspective and commits them to active support of United Nations programmes. Now, CEC faces the question of how to implement the Assembly decisions.

CEC assists its member churches in monitoring and communicating to them on CSCE and United Nations activities, especially on developments in disarmament, human rights and the environment. National and local initiatives are supported. Study and action programmes have been established - for example, on the churches' role in relation to the restriction of the arms industry and in environmental and developmental issues (in relation to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development). These projects are undertaken on a European level and involve partner organizations world wide, local churches and peoples' movements.

A second European Ecumenical Assembly is planned in order to formulate new priorities and to evaluate the implementation of the Basel decisions.

Another dimension of our relationships with the United Nations is our work with asylum seekers, refugees and displaced people.

In 1987 CEC and the World Council of Churches (WCC) established a European Churches' Working Group on Asylum and Refugees (ECWGAR). In a threefold way ECWGAR concentrates on encouraging, advising and mobilizing member churches' commitments and actions in the field of refugees and asylum seekers. For example:

(a) Special attention is being given to developments in Southern Europe, including developments at the level of European institutions, Governments, intergovernmental organizations, CSCE and the United Nations, particularly the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees. A particular concern of ECWGAR is the churches' fundamental need to consider and adopt human rights as a basis for refugee policy in Europe;

(b) The First International Ecumenical Training Programme for Future Church Refugee Workers in Central and Eastern Europe, submits the concerns related to refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced people and "people on the move" to such organizations as CSCE, the United Nations Centre on Human Rights and the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees;

(c) Efforts are made to reach out to local congregations, by involving them in refugee and asylum concerns, through information, educational skills, publications, exchange of experiences, advocacy and worship.

CEC continues to participate regularly in the activities of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with ECOSOC (CONGO).

INTERNATIONAL CENTRE OF SOCIOLOGICAL, PENAL AND PENITENTIARY RESEARCH AND STUDIES (INTERCENTER)

(Category II)

1. Aims and purpose of the Organization

The fundamental purpose of the International Centre of Sociological, Penal and Penitentiary Research and Studies is to study the different forms of criminality which are in danger of compromising democratic society and which threaten our fundamental institutions.

Bearing in mind that sociological, penal and penitentiary components are inseparable for a comprehensive study of criminal phenomena, the Centre's statute states that research, progress and development factors as well as studies made by the Centre must be carried out using multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary methods.

Although the Centre considers it indispensable to maintain a high cultural and scientific standard - guaranteed by the distinguished members of its Scientific Committee, coming from different countries all over the world - it does not intend to limit its energies to the advancement of knowledge alone but wishes also to contribute to an in-depth analysis of the numerous aspects of developing and developed countries which have been brought to light by sociological and ancillary disciplinary studies. The Centre thus offers research workers, scholars and persons responsible for national and international decision the possibility of broadening their own specific knowledge through its available technical and other facilities.

The Centre, in fact, intends to study, through careful research, problems of the world today and to cooperate to their solution.

The Centre also intends to give further study to the concepts and contents of human rights within various countries throughout the world and contribute towards the research for methods and means by which these rights should be fully acknowledged and respected.

In accordance with its statute, the Centre contributes to assisting national and international experts in the various disciplines to improve their knowledge of new techniques in allied fields. To this end the Centre organizes short relevant specialized courses.

Finally, the Centre can offer qualified advice to governmental and non-governmental bodies and to national and international organizations and institutions.

The Centre is a non-profit organization. It is financed by contributions from the Sicilian Regional Administration, local bodies and from institutions instrumental in its foundation, the subscription of members and other private and public bodies and other donations, contributions and subsidies to its activities.

Scientific sections: Argentina (Fundación CONVIVAR, Buenos Aires; Centro de Estudios Criminologicos, Policiales y Penitenciarios, Rosario), Australia

(Australian Institute of Criminology, Canberra), Belgium (Centre national de criminologie, Bruxelles), Canada (Department of Psychology, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby; Faculté de droit, Université de Sherbrooke), Colombia (Escuela Judicial "Bonilla", Bogotá), Ivory Coast (Institut de criminologie, Université nationale, Abidjan), Egypt (Police Academy, Abbassia-Cairo), France (Institut de criminologie, Paris), Japan (Centre for International Law, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Kita-Ku), India (Department of Psychology, Barkatullah University, Bhopal), Italy (Instituto di Medicina Legale, Università di Siena), Mauritius (Prison Headquarters, Beau Bassin), Portugal (Escola de Policia Judiciaria, Barro-Loures), China (Public Security Ministry, Beijing), Senegal (Institut des droits de l'homme et de la paix, Université de Dakar), Spain (Facultad de Derecho, Ciudad Universitaria, Madrid), United Kingdom (Institute for the Study and Treatment of Delinquency, King's College, London), United States (Department of Criminal Justice, University of Illinois at Chicago).

2. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies

The Centre took part in the following meetings:

(a) Tenth special session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, 8-19 February 1988, Vienna;

(b) Meeting on crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of development: realities and perspectives of international cooperation, 15-19 February 1988, Vienna;

(c) Meeting on effective national and international action against organized crime and terrorist criminal activities, 14-18 March 1988, Vienna;

(d) Meeting on United Nations norms and guidelines in crime prevention and criminal justice implementation and priorities for further standard setting, 27 June-1 July 1988, Vienna;

(e) Fortieth session of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, 20-26 August 1988, Geneva;

(f) Session of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, 21-31 August 1988, Vienna;

(g) International seminar on the handling of documentation on human rights, 22-24 November 1988, United Nations University, Tokyo;

(h) Seminar on the teaching of human rights, 5-9 December 1988, Geneva;

(i) Forty-fifth session of the Commission on Human Rights, 30 January, 10 March 1989, Geneva;

(j) World public information campaign on human rights, 27 February, Geneva;

(k) European regional preparatory conference for the eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, 24-28 April 1989, Helsinki;

(l) Symposium on AIDS and human rights, jointly organized by the United Nations and WHO, 26-29 July 1989, Geneva;

(m) Forty-first session of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, 7 August-1 September, Geneva;

(n) Eleventh session of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, 5-9 February 1990, Vienna;

(o) Forty-second session of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, August 1990, Geneva;

(p) Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, 27 August-7 September 1990, Havana. INTERCENTER presented the "Rome Declaration" and sponsored the meeting arranged for 4 September on the topic "Drugs and drug-related crime: approaches to curb the explosive relationship";

(q) International seminar on protection of human rights and national legislation, organized by the United Nations Association of the Byelorussian SSR, 4-6 December 1990, Minsk;

(r) Special Committee of International NGOs for Human Rights, 28 January 1991, Geneva;

(s) Special Committee of International NGOs for Human Rights, 6 June 1991, Geneva.

3. Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

(a) Second Seminar for Heads of Penitentiary Administrations of English-speaking African Countries, 29 February-5 March 1988, Harare, Zimbabwe. The seminar sought to give information to African developing countries about standard minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners and related recommendations;

(b) International seminar on human rights in the East and West: a comparative study of certain juridical concepts, 14-15 April 1989, Messina, Italy. The United Nations was officially represented by the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights;

(c) European Meeting for Heads of Penitentiary Administrations, 6-12 November 1989, Messina-Rome Italy. The meeting was jointly organized by INTERCENTER and the Italian Ministry of Justice, under the auspices of the United Nations. The meeting's aim was to contribute to the preparation of the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. During the closing session, the delegates from 24 countries approved the Rome Declaration, which would have been the specific contribution of INTERCENTER to the Congress;

(d) Regional Seminar for Heads of Penitentiary Administrations of Latin America, 14-18 May 1990, San José, Costa Rica. The seminar had the same purpose as the seminar held in Harare;

(e) Regional Seminar for Heads of Penitentiary Associations of French-speaking African Countries, 24-28 September 1990, Bujumbura, Burundi. The seminar was aimed at diffusing the resolutions of the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF POSTMASTERS

(Category II)

In 1988, the International Society of Postmasters (ISP) held its General Assembly at Bordeaux, France (10 and 11 September). There was a change of President, with Mr. Abdelhamid Guerfallah taking over the Society's chairmanship.

It was also decided at the Assembly, in the light of serious financial problems, that members of the Society's Board of Governors would work on a voluntary basis and try to promote the best interests of ISP.

In 1989, the Society met at Montreal, Canada (9, 10 and 11 September). At this Assembly, some members expressed the wish that the Society be turned into a foundation. The majority voted against but, again as a result of financial problems, it was suggested that the Society be reorganized on a federal basis, by continent, with a view to limiting costs and giving more individual scope to each continent.

In 1990, ISP met at Djerba, Tunisia. Mr. Guerfallah relinquished the Presidency to Mr. Robert Groix. It was decided that the continents would be independent and that they could draw up their own statutes and collect the contributions of their members but that there would be a four-member Board exercising overall supervision to ensure that ISP continued to point its efforts in the same direction.

In 1991, members met at Las Vegas (13 and 14 October). The American continent used the occasion to register its statutes and become independent, while maintaining very close links with the Board and the other continents. It was decided that Europe and Asia/Australia would follow suit in 1992.

Between 1988 and 1990, ISP prepared, printed and distributed a management course for postmasters throughout the world. The course, which was intended in particular for developing countries, with a view to improving the skills of postmasters there, was supported by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

Our objective remains to establish ever closer links among the world's postmasters. We publish a magazine - Dialogue - which currently appears once or twice a year.

Despite our difficulties, we shall meet at San Francisco to celebrate our twentieth anniversary. We are battling against all odds to maintain our progress. The multinational firm Franklin Mint is paying us royalties for certifying sets of metal stamps sold in various countries. We are seeking other sponsors, but it is not easy.

We form a small society which has made itself known throughout the world. Membership inquiries are few and far between because of language difficulties, which constitute a formidable barrier. Our magazine appears in two languages: English and French.